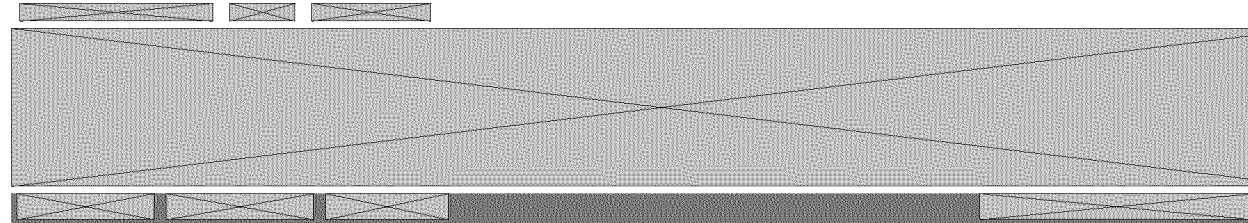


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LEADING THE NEWS

EPA

Scott Pruitt Could Tip Regulatory Power From EPA to States

State regulators could see more autonomy and a new seat at the table as the Environmental Protection Agency drafts federal regulations under Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, President-elect Donald Trump's pick to run the agency....

NEWS

Air Pollution

No Leak-Detection Requirement for Armor Ingredient Maker

The Environmental Protection Agency is amending its national emissions standards for ferroalloy production facilities to do away with a mandatory leak detection requirement after determining it previously underestimated the cost of...

Air Pollution

Smog-Choked China May Fast-Track Green Debt, Top Banker Says

China's top underwriter of green bonds said the government may accelerate approvals in 2017 as the nation battles a toxic wave of smog....

Biotechnology

Controversial Turfgrass Approved, But Not Hitting Shelves

A genetically engineered turfgrass has overcome a regulatory hurdle, despite a promise from its makers not to sell the product in the foreseeable future....

Business

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Bayer-Monsanto Pledge Investment, Jobs After Trump Meeting

Bayer AG and Monsanto Co. promised President-elect Donald Trump \$8 billion of investment in the U.S. and thousands of new jobs should the companies' planned merger, the biggest-ever in agriculture, clear regulatory approvals....

Chemicals

EU Publishes Draft Restriction on Zinc Oxide In Cosmetics

Comments can be submitted through March 13 on a draft European Commission regulation circulated to World Trade Organization members that would place a restriction on zinc oxide in cosmetics sold in the European Union....

Climate Change

China to Invest Billions on Low-Carbon Technologies

China will invest about \$37 billion on low-carbon technologies over the next four years, the government recently said....

Climate Policy

Swiss Solar Pilot Who Circled Globe Seeks Trump Climate Meeting

Bertrand Piccard, the Swiss pilot who circumnavigated the world in a solar-powered plane, wants to convince Donald Trump that investing in clean energy is key to creating jobs and growth....

Climate Regulation

Biggest Banks Ignore Risks in Climate Stress Tests, Report Says

More of the world's biggest banks are testing how stress from climate change could harm their future profits, but they're failing to feed those findings into investment decisions....

Climate Regulation

North Dakota Launches New Legal Front on Power Plant Carbon Rule

North Dakota launched a new legal assault on the Environmental Protection Agency's carbon dioxide limits for power plants even though a federal appellate court decision on the legality of the regulation is expected shortly....

Coal Mining

GAO Buttresses Obama Stance on Coal Self-Bonding

A new government report appears to backstop the Obama administration's belief that the self-bonding financial mechanism should end in the coal sector, even though the incoming Trump administration seems likely to keep the practice...

Congress

Round Two: Some Trump Picks Seen Moving Ahead, Others Bog Down

Senate Republicans' efforts to put President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet in place are entering their second week, with some nominees on track for quick confirmation while others are bogging down in controversies over their...

Endangered Species

Sage Grouse Lawsuits May Roll Ahead Despite Ruling

Plaintiffs suing federal agencies over protections for the greater sage grouse may not miss a beat in their efforts, despite the dismissal of one of the many lawsuits. ...

Energy

China's Overseas Nuclear Ambitions Need Aid, Operator Says

China's ambitions to develop nuclear power projects globally need cheaper loans and government support to compete against its overseas rivals, according to the nation's biggest atomic plant operator....

Energy

China Suspends 101 Coal-Power Projects to Limit Fossil Fuel Use

China, the world's biggest carbon emitter, has suspended more than 100 coal-fired power plants either approved or under construction in a bid to curb overcapacity of electricity generation and amid a push to limit fossil-fuel consumption....

Energy

Research and Development Funding Stressed in Energy Report

An Energy Department report highlights the importance of doubling funding for research and development for energy innovation by 2022 to maintain U.S. leadership in this field. ...

EPA

Green Groups Rally Last-Minute Pruitt Opposition

Green groups nationwide are ramping up their opposition campaign against Scott Pruitt, the Oklahoma attorney general tapped for Environmental Protection Agency administrator, just hours ahead of his high-profile and likely contentious...

Hazmat Transport

BNSF Right of Way Across Tribal Land Can Be Challenged

A tribe seeking to stop BNSF Railway Co. from hauling Bakken crude oil across its reservation is not entitled to an injunction, but may ask the Department of Interior to cancel the railroad's right of way, a federal judge found Jan. 13 Swinomish...

International Climate

Ignoring Trump Skepticism, Davos Set Bets on Climate Change

Donald Trump has often ridiculed global warming and promised to withdraw the U.S. from the accord signed in Paris in 2015. Yet despite the shift in political weather in Washington, the captains of business and finance gathered in Davos this...

International Climate

Obama Makes \$500 Million Climate Payment, Angering Republicans

The outgoing Obama administration made a last-minute \$500 million payment Jan. 17 to an international fund to help developing nations address climate impacts, a move that sparked Republican outrage three days before Donald Trump's...

International Climate

U.S. Sees Climate Change in Spotlight as Vietnam Chairs APEC

Climate change will be a priority as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's rotating chair moves to Vietnam, John Kerry said in his final trip as U.S. secretary of state to this country he first entered as a war combatant....

International Climate

Xi Urges Trump to Stay in 'Hard Won' Paris Climate Deal

Chinese Premier Xi Jinping urged climate change skeptic Donald Trump to keep the U.S. in the "hard won" Paris agreement during a Davos speech that touted the world's largest polluter as a leader in the fight against global warming....

International Issues

Take Time Selling Canada to Trump, Departing U.S. Envoy Tells Trudeau

President Barack Obama's outgoing envoy to Canada has some guidance for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in dealing with the new Trump administration: Don't assume anything....

Natural Resources

HSBC's Palm-Oil Funding Leads to Deforestation: Greenpeace

Environmental group Greenpeace accused HSBC Holdings PLC of funding companies in the palm-oil industry that are destroying forests....

Natural Resources

Interior Nominee Zinke Wants More Local Influence in Policies

The federal government needs to listen more to state and local voices in the management of lands, including national monuments, energy development and the uses of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) said during...

Natural Resources

Trump's Interior Pick Consulted for Company With No Customers

President-elect Donald Trump's pick to head the Interior Department earned \$85,000 from a company that has a stock price of 8 cents, an accumulated deficit of more than \$100 million and no customers....

Oil & Gas

California Proposes Storage Curbs at Site of Biggest Gas Leak

Sempra Energy would be able to fill about a third of a natural gas storage field that's been shut since late 2015 after a massive leak based on a proposal California regulators are now weighing....

Oil & Gas

Methane Containment Rule for U.S. Lands Allowed to Go Ahead

The oil and gas industry lost a court bid to block an Obama administration requirement to contain methane emissions from production on federal land, but they may soon win in Congress (W. Energy All. v. Dep't of Interior, 2017 BL 11609,...

REACH

EU Chemicals Agency Wants Information on Repellents

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is calling for information to be submitted through Feb. 15 on long-chain perfluorinated carboxylic acids (PFCAs) and their precursors, a group of substances used in the production of fluoropolymer and...

Renewable Energy

May Wants U.K. to Work with EU on Clean Energy Post-Brexit

Prime Minister Theresa May said the U.K. will seek to continue working with the European Union on clean energy after it leaves the 28-nation bloc....

Renewable Energy

U.S. Plans to Auction North Carolina Offshore Wind Site in March

The Interior Department scheduled a March 16 auction for a federal lease to build offshore wind farms on about 122,400 acres in the waters off North Carolina....

Solid Waste

Auditors Criticize EU Measures to Reduce Food Waste

European Union measures to reduce food waste have been "fragmented and intermittent" and have been insufficiently backed up as the European Commission has progressively lost interest in the issue, the European Court of Auditors...

Superfund

Company to Pay \$200 Million for Wisconsin Superfund Cleanup

NCR Corp. agreed to pay the cost of cleanup for Wisconsin's Fox River Superfund site, expected to be more than \$200 million over the next few years....

Superfund

Pruitt to Seek 'Neighborhood Solutions' for Superfund Cleanups

EPA pick Scott Pruitt would seek a citizen-level focus for the Superfund program, according to the president-elect's transition team....

Sustainability

Market for Biobased Chemicals Hangs on Function, Final Product

Companies working to meet sustainability goals by making or using biobased chemicals should focus on the chemicals' performance, the final product containing the compounds and supply chain partnerships, a market analyst said Jan....

Water Pollution

Water Jurisdiction Case Headed for Pause, Attorneys Agree

Attorneys rarely agree, but in this instance they all are singing the same tune: The ongoing legal review of the federal rule clarifying the scope of Clean Water Act jurisdiction will pause until the U.S. Supreme Court has resolved where challenges...

Water Resources

Drought-To-Drenched, California Faces Water Balancing Act

Rain has finally been falling hard in California, where reservoirs are filling up fast. After six years of punishing drought, that's obviously a good thing. But it creates a balancing-act challenge for the state's water managers....

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